

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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L-03 H-01 PA-01 ACDA-12 OMB-01 CIAE-00 MMO-01
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P R 141140Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1041
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
DIRNSA WASHDC
HQ USAF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
CINCEUR
CINCUSAFE
CINCUSAREUR
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ANKARA 1923

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, TU
SUBJ: US WITHDRAWAL FROM KARAMURSEL: JOINT STATEMENT AND PRESS
GUIDANCE

1. ON MARCH 13, EMBASSY POLITICAL/MILITARY OFFICER MET WITH
HALUK OZGUL, FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE AGREEMENTS,
TO DISCUSS PUBLIC ASPECTS OF US WITHDRAWAL FROM KARAMURSEL.
EMBASSY POL/MIL OFFICER NOTED THAT US SIDE ANTICIPATED
GIVING FULL DETAILS OF KARAMURSEL PHASEOUT TO TURKISH GENERAL
STAFF (TGS) AND FOREIGN MINISTRY SOON, AND SAID THAT IT
WOULD BE PRUDENT TO HAVE JOINT STATEMENT WORKED OUT AND
AND AGREEMENT ON TIMING OF SUCH STATEMENT BEFORE US PHASEOUT
BECAME COMMON KNOWLEDGE, BOTH HERE AND IN US.

2. REGARDING TIMING, OZGUL OBSERVED THAT USG MAY NOT WISH
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TO REVEAL KARAMURSEL WITHDRAWAL PUBLICLY BEFORE POSSIBLE
CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON THE US-TURKISH DEFENSE COOPERATION
AGREEMENT(DCA) AND IT MAY THEREFORE BE BETTER TO WAIT UNTIL
DCA IS APPROVED BEFORE ANY JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE. EMBASSY
POL/MIL OFFICER THEREUPON OFFERED TO OBTAIN WASHINGTON'S VIEWS
ON LINKAGE BETWEEN KARAMURSEL ANNOUNCEMENT AND HEARINGS AND
OTHER ACTION ON THE DCA. OZGUL REAFFIRMED THAT JOINT USG/

GOT ANNOUNCEMENT ON KARAMURSEL WITHDRAWAL IS PREFERRED COURSE OF ACTION AND SAID THAT HE WOULD CONSULT WITH TGS AND OTHERS ON TIMING.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS REGARDING TIMING OF JOINT USG/GOT ANNOUNCEMENT ON KARAMURSEL PHASEOUT WITH POSSIBLE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON THE DCA. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE COMMENTS ON DRAFT JOINT STATEMENT PER PARA 4 BELOW AND ON CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE CONTAINED PARA 5 BELOW; LATTER IS TO BE USED BY US SIDE ONLY AND IS NOT TO BE JOINTLY AGREED WITH TURKS.

4. DRAFT JONT STATEMENT ON KARAMURSEL: BEGIN TEXT

THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAVE JOINTLY REVIEWED THE REQUIREMENT FOR CONTINUED UNITED STATES MILITARY ACTIVITIES AT KARAMURSEL COMMON DEFENSE INSTALLATION. AFTER CONSIDERATION OF THE RELEVANT FACTORS, THE DECISION HAS BEEN MADE TO RESTORE KARAMURSEL INSTALLATION TO THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY FOR PURPOSES AS MAY BE DETERMINED BY THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT. KARAMURSEL INSTALLATION WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1957 AND ITS PRIMARY MISSION HAS BEEN TO PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE AND LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR OTHER US MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN NORTHWESTERN TURKEY. THE BASE HAS BEEN JOINTLY MANNED BY TURKISH AND UNITED STATES FORCES. THE REORGANIZATION OF LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FUNCTIONS
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CARRIED OUT BY US MILITARY UNITS AT KARAMURSEL WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED OVER THE NEXT YEAR, AND IT IS PLANNED THAT THE PHASEOUT OF UNITED STATES ACTIVITIES WILL BE CONDUCTED GRADUALLY AND IN CONSULTATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY. END TEXT.

5. DRAFT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR USE BY US OFFICIALS: BEGIN TEXT.

A. QUESTION: WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF THE KARAMURSEL PHASEOUT ON THE 1976 US-TURKISH DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT?
ANSERE: ARTICLE IV OF THE DCA PROVIDES THAT US MILITARY ACTIVITIES ON TURKISH INSTALLATIONS WILL BE CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH MUTUALLY WORKED-OUT PROGRAMS OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. INASMUCH AS THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CONSULTED ON AND AGREES TO THE US PHASEOUT, THE GRADUAL TERMINATION OF US ACTIVITIES AT KARAMURSEL IS CONSISTENT WITH THE DCA.

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B. QUESTION: WILL AN AMENDMENT TO THE DCA BE REQUIRED?
ANSWER: THERE IS NO SPECIFIC MENTION OF KARAMURSEL INSTALLATION
IN THE TEXT OF THE DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT; THERE IS,
THERFORE, NO REQUIREMENT TO AMEND THE AGREEMENT.

C. QUESTION: WHEN WAS THE DECISION TO REDUCE US ACTIVITIES AT
KARAMURSEL MADE?
ANSWER: THE FUTURE OF US OPERATIONS AT KARAMURSEL HAS
BEEN UNDER REVIEW FOR SOME TIME. IN VIEW OF LOGISTICAL AND
OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS, THE MATTER HAS BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION
BETWEEN THE US AND TURKISH GOVERNMENTS FOR SEVERAL MONTHS.

D. QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT US INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES AT KARAMURSEL?
ANSWER: AS IS GENERALLY KNOWN, US INFORMATION-GATHERING
ACTIVITIES AT KARAMURSEL WERE SUSPENDED IN JULY 1975.
SUBSEQUENT REVIEW OF THE TOTALITY OF US ACTIVITIES AT
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KARAMURSEL, NOTABLY THE LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FUNCTION, HAS
DETERMINED THAT A REALIGNMENT OF THESE ACTIVITIES WAS NECESSARY.
THE DECISION TO PHASE OUT US OPERATIONS AT KARAMURSEL
WAS TAKEN IN THIS LIGHT.

E. QUESTION: WHAT WILL THE INSTALLATION BE USED FOR AFTER US ACTIVITIES ARE TERMINATED?

ANSWER: YOU MUST ADDRESS THIS QUESTION TO THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT.

F. QUESTION: IS CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO THE TERMINATION OF US OPERATIONS AT OTHER INSTALLATIONS IN TURKEY?

ANSWER: NO. HOWEVER, US ACTIVITIES AT ALL SITES IN TURKEY ARE PERIODICALLY REVIEWED TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE COST-EFFECTIVE AND ARE PERFORMING FUNCTIONS IN CONSONANCE WITH CURRENT US AND TURKISH REQUIREMENTS AS MUTUALLY AGREED BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS.

G. QUESTION: ARE THERE ANY FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE US PHASEOUT OF KARAMURSEL?

ANSWER: APPROXIMATELY \$8.9 MILLION WILL BE SAVED DURING THE FIRST YEAR AND APPROXIMATELY \$17 MILLION EACH YEAR THEREAFTER.

H. QUESTION: WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE EQUIPMENT AND PHYSICAL FACILITIES AT THE INSTALLATION?

ANSWER: THIS MATTER IS UNDER STUDY AND THERE WILL BE FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY.

I. QUESTION: WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE TURKISH CIVILIANS (LWR'S) EMPLOYED AT THE BASE?

ANSWER: THEIR POSITIONS WILL BE ELIMINATED. THE US AIR FORCE, BOEING SERVICES INTERNATIONAL (BSI) AND THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE EVERY ATTEMPT TO FIND NEW CONFIDENTIAL

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EMPLOYMENT FOR THESE EMPLOYEES.

J. QUESTION: HOW MANY LWR'S ARE EMPLOYED AT KARAMURSEL?

ANSWER SIXTY-SIX AIR FORCE DIRECT HIRE AND 473 BOEING EMPLOYEES.

K. QUESTION: HOW MANY AMERICANS ARE AFFECTED?

ANSWER: APPROXIMATELY 500 MILITARY, 900 DEPENDENTS AND 40 OTHER CIVILIANS--TOTAL 1,440.

L. QUESTION: WHEN WILL THE FIRST PERSONNEL DEPART?

ANSWER: PERSONNEL ROTATING CURRENTLY ARE NOT BEING REPLACED.

M. QUESTION: WILL THERE BE ANY AMERICANS STATIONED THERE TO SUPPORT THE TURKISH FORCES?

ANSWER: AT THE END OF APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR ALL AMERICANS WILL HAVE DEPARTED. END TEXT
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